



## ÉCOLE SEAFORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Many thanks to the parents who came to the November PAC meeting. Just a reminder that we do not have a meeting in December, so the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18. We'd like to bring in speakers for some PAC meetings. If there are any topics you'd like to hear about, let us know by emailing [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net).

### **We Need a New Website!!!**

William Wong has graciously hosted and often updated the Seaforth PAC website for many many years. But this is his last year at the school, so we're hoping one of our parents will be willing to build a new website for the Seaforth PAC. The reason we want an entirely new website is because the current website is built around software that has to be actually loaded onto someone's computer to allow them to do the updates. We'd rather have the website build around a template that does not require software and is really easy to use, so we can just hand the password off to the new PAC every year and the new people can easily do the updates. The website can be pared down considerably from its current size and complexity, and we don't need anything fancy. If you're interested in building a simple website for the Seaforth PAC, please send an email to [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net).

### **New Coordinators**

Many thanks to Donna Binotto and Anne Deliyannides for offering to coordinate the Traffic Safety Program. We still do not have enough parent volunteers to run a full program, but are hoping to get at least a partial program started soon. If you are able to help out as a crosswalk supervisor, please send an email to [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net). We need people in the morning before school starts and again at the end of the day.

Many thanks to Stan Yuen for offering to coordinate the Technical Committee. The district has nearly completed its upgrades in the school, at which point we will get a complete inventory of both the hardware and software that will be used to initiate discussions with the district, the school and Seaforth parents about what technology upgrades the school needs and whether the PAC wants to fund them.

### **Coordinators Needed**

We are still looking for someone to coordinate the **Sports Day concession** in May and we need a coordinator for the **Emergency Preparedness Committee** (keep our emergency container stocked and assist with the annual earthquake drill). There is lots of documentation in place to help you get organized, and you will receive support from the PAC and last year's coordinators as well. So don't be shy about coming forward – we'll make sure you get what you need to be successful! But without coordinators these initiatives will not happen this year.

We also need a small **Playground Committee** to evaluate our playground needs and then report back to the PAC so we can make a decision about how to spend our surplus funds.

### **Safe School Committee**

We are very excited about our plans for an entire month of community building and kindness in February, ending with Pink Shirt Day on February 29, which is a worldwide event focused on preventing bullying. We've got lots of ideas for the month of February that will be fun and interactive and get the kids working together to build a strong school community. Unfortunately, some of the Safe School programs that we had planned for the year, such as playground mentors, have been cancelled because of the job action. But we'll continue to build an inventory of ideas that we can implement later this year or next year. We'd like to continue to build on this program in coming years. If you come across any initiatives that you'd like us to consider, please email MaryAnn Giardini at [magiardini@telus.net](mailto:magiardini@telus.net).

### **PAC Mysteries Unveiled**

At the May 2011 PAC meeting we discussed the need to have some of the PAC operating policies written down to make it clearer for the incoming PAC, and for parents, about how the PAC functions. The major items are built into the PAC Constitution, but there are always a few unwritten policies that are handed down, like folklore, from PAC Exec to PAC Exec. The primary policies that we're drafting are: procedures for silent auctions, procedures for carnival, procedures for handling money, fundraising policy, use of popcorn machine by special interest groups, and the feeding volunteers policy.

If there are any PAC functions that you've always wondered about, please send a note to [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net) and we'll answer your questions, and maybe the topic at hand will warrant its own policy! We also have a PAC Handbook that is given to the incoming PAC every year, and we are working diligently to update each section with new information so that new volunteers will understand their role and have most of the answers to their questions, perhaps before they even know to ask them!

The Feeding Volunteers Policy is the one that will likely be of the most interest, since there are many events during the year where we bring in food. The new policy is that people who volunteer to help with an event, such as sports day, the parent social, carnival, movie night, spirit day or hot lunch, should not expect to be fed. Sometimes there is food left over at these events, in which case people often buy the extras and the final remnants are taken home by the coordinators or volunteers. But the new policy states that volunteering to help with an event does not guarantee you a meal, and we will definitely not order extra food for the volunteers. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net).

It should also be noted that all special interest groups, such as Grade 7 Grad, Grade 7 Camping Trip and the Grade 7 French Trip, fall under the school's operational umbrella.

### **Book Fairs**

Birdie Chan is coordinating three books fairs for the school this year. The French Scholastic book fair in September raised \$867 for the school library. The next book fair is scheduled for November 30 and December 1 and will feature Usborne Books. Usborne Books has more than 2500 titles, including 500 French and 100 Spanish titles, and we will earn 25% of sales in free books for the school library. Details regarding viewing and ordering the books went home by email and paper on November 24. We are also planning an English Scholastic book fair for January. While my email on November 24 indicated that the book fair would happen at the same time as parent/teacher interviews, the interviews will not take place if the BCTF strike is still ongoing in January. Information regarding the interviews will come from the school closer to the scheduled dates; my apologies if my email caused any confusion. The Scholastic book fair, however, will carry on in January as scheduled, with more details to come in the new year.

### **Thank Yous!**

Thanks to MaryAnn Giardini and Rhylin Bailie for coordinating movie night, which raised \$350 for the school. Thanks as well to Jen Mezei and Siva Ramesh for helping in the concession, to Wendell Hiltz for keeping us company, to Anne and George Deliyannides for loaning us their barbecue and helping to clean up at the end of the night, and to Liam, Kyle, Simon, Fintan, Julia and Hannah (sorry if I've forgotten anybody!) for helping to clean up.

Thanks to Adrienne Dall'Antonia, Eliza Lum and Meishan Cheung for coordinating the Book Swap, and thanks to everybody who donated books! The event raised \$400 for Edmonds School. Teachers and the library selected some books from the ones that were left, and the rest were donated to Edmonds School.

Thanks to Adrienne Dall'Antonia and Ann Einstein for serving popcorn every Friday! I don't know who loves it more, the kids or Adrienne...

Thanks to Janet Lee for coordinating our volunteers, and to all the parent volunteers who help to drop off and pick up classroom paperwork.

As always, we welcome your feedback and opinions. Please do not hesitate to call me at 604-219-2824 or send a note to [chair@seaforthpac.net](mailto:chair@seaforthpac.net).

Yours truly,  
Rhylin Bailie  
PAC Chairperson  
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